CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5   1.   A method for determining accuracy of a
classifier, comprising the steps of:
     determining a set of categories of an
arrangement of categories selected for an item by the
classifier;

10   determining a set of categories of the
arrangement selected for the item by an authoritative
classifier;
     determining an accuracy measure for the item
which indicates a degree of correctness of the

15   classifier based on the categories selected by the
classifier and the categories selected by the
authoritative classifier.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of

20   determining the accuracy measure comprises the steps
of:
     assigning a true indication to each category in
the arrangement selected by the authoritative
classifier and assigning a false indication to each

25   category in the arrangement not selected by the
authoritative classifier;
     assigning a positive indication to each category
in the arrangement selected by the classifier and
assigning a negative indication to each category in

30   the arrangement not selected by the classifier;
     determining the accuracy measure in response to
the true, false, positive, and negative indications.

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3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining the accuracy measure includes the step of determining a true positive count which indicates a number of the categories in the arrangement assigned
5   the true and positive indications.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining the accuracy measure includes the step of determining a false positive count which indicates a
10   number of the categories in the arrangement assigned the false and positive indications.

5.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining the accuracy measure includes the step of
15   determining a false negative count which indicates a number of the categories in the arrangement assigned the false and negative indications.

6.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of
20   determining the accuracy measure includes the step of determining a true negative count which indicates a number of the categories in the arrangement assigned the false and negative indications.

25   7.   The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of assigning an indifferent indication to one or more of the categories in the arrangement such that the categories with the indifferent indication do not contribute to the accuracy measure.

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8.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining the accuracy measure includes the step of determining an indication of over-aggressiveness by

the classifier in response to the true, false,
positive, and negative indications.

9.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of
5   determining the accuracy measure includes the step of
determining an indication of over-conservativeness by
the classifier in response to the true, false,
positive, and negative indications.

10   10.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of
determining the accuracy measure includes the steps
of:
     determining a true positive count which
indicates a number of the categories in the
15   arrangement assigned the true and positive
indications
     determining a false positive count which
indicates a number of the categories in the
arrangement assigned the false and positive
20   indications;
     determining a false negative count which
indicates a number of the categories in the
arrangement assigned the false and negative
indications;
25   determining a true negative count which
indicates a number of the categories in the
arrangement assigned the false and negative
indications;
     determining an indication of over-aggressiveness
30   by the classifier in response to the true, false,
positive, and negative indications;

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determining an indication of over-
conservativeness by the classifier in response to the
true, false, positive, and negative indications;
    combining the true positive, false positive,
5   false negative, and true negative counts with the
indications of over-aggressiveness and over-
conservativeness.

11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the
10   step of combining the accuracy measure with a set of
additional accuracy measures obtained for a set of
additional items.

12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the accuracy
15   measure provides a fitness measure for designing the
classifier.

13.   The method of claim 1, wherein the classifier
provides a prediction of purchasing behavior and the
20   accuracy measure is used to evaluate the prediction.

14.   The method of claim 1, wherein the accuracy
measure enables a comparison of the accuracy the
classifier with an accuracy of at least one other
25   classifier.

15.   The method of claim 1, wherein the classifier is
used in an information management system and the
accuracy measure used to evaluate categorization of
30   items in the information management system.

16.   The method of claim 1, wherein the classifier is
used in a placement of items in electronic portals

and the accuracy measure is used to evaluate the placement.